

CLAIMS:

1. An optical disc (3) for storing data, the optical disc comprising at least one data layer (5, 15) and a transparent layer (4, 14), the data being retrievable from the data layer (5, 15) via the transparent layer (4, 14) by a reading laser beam (1, 21), the transparent layer (4, 14) comprising label material for forming a label at a laser entry side of the disc by reflection or absorption of light at a range of wavelengths in the visual spectrum, the label material being substantially transparent for light at the wavelength of the reading laser beam (1, 21), characterized in that the reflection or absorption is affectable by locally illuminating the label material for the forming of the label.
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2. An optical disc (3) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transparent layer (4, 14) comprises at least one substrate layer (9, 19) and at least one label material layer (8, 18).
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3. An optical disc (3) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transparent layer (4, 14) comprises label material (13) dispersed in a substrate layer for constituting a label material layer (10).
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4. An optical disc (3) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the label material is an organic photosensitive material.
5. An optical disc (3) as claimed in claim 1, comprising label material of which the reflection or absorption is affectable by locally illuminating the label at a wavelength substantially different from a wavelength of the reading laser beam (1, 21) or a writing laser beam for writing data onto the data layer (5, 15) of the disc (3).
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6. An optical disc as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transparent layer (4, 14) comprises at least a first label material and a second label material, in the first label material reflection or absorption of light at a first range of wavelengths being affectable by illuminating the material, in the second label material reflection or absorption of light at a
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second range of wavelengths being affectable by illuminating the material, the second range of wavelengths being different from the first range of wavelengths.

7. A method for applying a label to a laser entry side of an optical disc (3) as
5 claimed in claim 1, the method comprising the step of illuminating the label material according to a label pattern for affecting reflection or absorption of light by the label material.
8. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein a laser (11, 12) is used for
10 illuminating the label material while scanning the disc (3) according to the label pattern.
9. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein a light source (56) is used in combination with a label mask (57) for illuminating the label material according to the label pattern.
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10. A device (52) for applying a label to a laser entry side of an optical disc (3) as claimed in claim 1, the device (52) comprising means (54, 56) for illuminating the label material according to a label pattern at a wavelength suitable for affecting the reflection or absorption of light by the label material.
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11. A device (52) as claimed in claim 10, wherein the means (54) for locally illuminating comprise means (55) for producing a laser beam (11) for illuminating the label material at the wavelength suitable for affecting the reflection or absorption of light by the label material, positioning means for positioning the laser beam (11) at areas of the label
25 material layer (8, 10, 18) in which areas the reflection or absorption is to be affected and focusing means for focusing the laser beam to obtain a laser spot with desired dimensions on the label material layer (8, 10, 18).
12. A device (52) as claimed in claim 10, further comprising means for reading
30 data from or writing data onto the disc (3).
13. A device (52) as claimed in claim 10, arranged for applying a label to a disc as claimed in claim 6, wherein the means (54) for locally illuminating comprise means for producing a second laser beam for illuminating the second label material.

ABSTRACT